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enabling the particular patient to control at least a portion of the individuals that are included in said predetermined group of persons.

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A3
16. A software program comprising:
means for establishing a patient information forum on a publicly accessible computer network;
means for limiting access to said patient information forum to a predetermined group of persons;
means for posting information regarding a particular patient on said patient information forum; and
means for enabling a patient for said patient information forum to control at least a portion of the individuals that are included in said predetermined group of persons.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Moshfeghi et al. in view of Takeo. Claim 14 stands rejected further in view of Rapport et al. Finally, claims 5, 11, and 15-20 stand rejected further in view of Herz et al. Although Applicants respectfully disagree, independent claims 1, 8 and 16 have been amended in a way that better distinguishes the claimed invention from the cited references. In particular, all of the claims make it clear that the patient himself or herself has at least partial control over the persons having access to their patient information forum. Applicants' specification makes it clear that this aspect of the invention may be accomplished, for example, by enabling the patient to give out a password to their patient information forum to whomever they wish. In one aspect of the invention, the patient can give out a password to another person, such as a relative, without identifying to the computer network administrator the identity of the person or persons who will be using that password to gain access to the patient's information forum. None of the cited references appear to show or suggest this aspect of Applicants' claimed invention.